(a) whether Government are aware that over half of the urban population have no sanitary facilities; and

(b) if so, by when the entire population in the cities will have hygienic sanitation facilities and how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. On the basis of information furnished by different State implementing agencies, such as, Public Health Engineering Departments/Water Supply & Sewerage Boards, approximately 50% of the urban population is reported to have no access to the sanitation facilities.

(b) Urban sanitation being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and urban local bodies to plan and implement the sanitation schemes and make adequate budget allocations for the purpose. The provision of hygienic sanitation facilities to the entire urban population in the cities therefore depends upon the priority accorded to the sanitation programme by different State Governments and the availability of adequate funds in the States' budgets.

Land available due to repeal of ULCR Act, 1976

419. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land likely to be available and that already released for housing projects as a result of the repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976, in defferent States and Union Territories; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken to get the land released under the Repeal Act, indicating the States which have and have not adopted the Repeal Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) It is difficult to assess the area of land likely to be available and that already released for housing projects as a result of the repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

(b) The State Governments where the Act has been repealed, have started scrutinising the legal aspects of the existing cases covered under various stages of the proceedings prior to the issue of notification under Section 10 (3) of the principal Act. The repeal Act applies in the first instance to the whole of the States of Haryana and Punjab and to all the UTs. Subsequently it was adopted by Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka.

The Governments of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have not adopted the Repeal Act. The question of release of land as a result of enforcement of the Repeal Act does not arise in these States.

Plan for development of Urban areas

†420. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement any development plan for urban areas and also for those of religious and tourism importance:

(b) if so, the names of cities in Rajasthan covered under this plan; and

(c) the State-wise provision of funds made by Government for well planned development of these cities for the year 1999-2000, alongwith the names of schemes under which such provisions were made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Schemes for development of urban areas (New Townships) and places of religious and tourist importance are proposed.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise as the schemes are to be approved.

Cities in a State of collapse

421. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cities are virtually in a state of collapse due to strained transport, traffic congestion, power and water shortage; and

(b) if so, how do Government plan to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) While the urban infrastructure in cities is strained, however, the Government has taken a number of measures to improve urban living conditions and deficiency of services in urban India. Some of the important measures include Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, Mega City schemes and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Environmental Improvement

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.